

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Interview:

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for his courtesy and consideration in discussing this Application in a telephone interview on March 28, 2006. As interviews after final are discretionary, the Applicant especially appreciates the opportunity. The Examiner and Applicant discussed independent claims 1 and 18, and certain changes that were needed to render these claims allowable under the rationale applicable to claim 9. That discussion is reflected in the amended claims below.

Amendments

Before this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 4-13, and 16-24 were present for examination. Claims 1 and 18 are amended, and claim 6 is canceled. Therefore, claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-13, and 16-24 are present for examination, and claims 1, 9, and 18 are the independent claims. No new matter is added by these amendments. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application as amended.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant notes with appreciation that claims 9-13, 16, 17, and 24 are allowable. The other independent claims 1 and 18 have been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 9. Claims 1, 9, and 18 remain as the only independent claims. Each of the remaining dependent claims, claims 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10-13, 16, 17, and 19-24, is believed to be patentable by virtue of its dependence from a claim having limitations identified in the Office Action as rendering the claim allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Appl. No. 09/801,564
Amdt. dated April 5, 2006
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 Expedited Procedure
Examining Group 2193

PATENT

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. L. Drapkin".

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